

REMARKS

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 and 23-25 under 35 USC 102(e) as being unpatentable over Chae et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0029229). The Applicant respectfully traverses. The claims as amended are not anticipated by Chae. In particular, Chae fails to teach the element of independent claim 1 of “*altering a composition of the SLAM by altering the carbon to silicon ratio of the composition of the SLAM prior to etching to provide a changed dry etch rate for the SLAM such that the dry etch rate of the altered SLAM is approximately equal to the dry etch rate of the ILD material*” and the element of claim 23 of “*altering a composition of a SLAM by adding a fluorine-containing additive to the composition of the SLAM prior to etching to provide a changed dry etch rate for the SLAM such that the changed dry etch rate of the altered SLAM is approximately equal to a dry etch rate of an interlayer dielectric (ILD) material.*” Therefore, the Applicant claims altering the composition of SLAM either by altering the carbon to silicon ratio or by adding a fluorine-containing additive to the SLAM composition prior to etching the SLAM. In contrast, Chae teaches including hydrofluorocarbon and/or fluorocarbon gases in an etchant gas mixture to assist in breaking the Si-O bond of SLAM during the etching process (See paragraphs 44 – 49) and altering the carbon to silicon ratio of the SLAM during etching by reacting hydrofluorine carbon gas from the etchant gas mixture with the SLAM. As such, the Applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims 1 and 23, and the claims that depend upon and incorporate the limitations of the independent claims 1 and 23, are not anticipated by Chae.

Allowable Subject Matter


The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 13-15, 18 and 20.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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Heather M. Molleur
Reg. No. 50,432

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8300